

there was any other reason it was because many members of that body were directly or indirectly to be benefited by the result. Had it been a meritorious proposition what need of such unseemly haste? If, as that demagogue, Gov. Wells would have us believe, it was for the public good, it might have been well to have given the public time to learn what was for its good. Then the Mayor vetoed it. On last Monday night, the Mayor's veto was overridden and an analysis of the votes of those who supported the graft discloses that without the influence of Apostle John Henry Smith the Mayor's veto would have been sustained. Whatever motives may have swayed some of those who endorsed the graft, I am convinced there were men there who will never satisfy themselves that they have not aided and abetted another robbery of the public and done so because of high church influence.

So it would seem that in State and city the church does control politically. I should like to have Elder Paul tell these truths to the people when he draws his next parallel between times as they were when "our people" controlled and as they exist now that we have yielded control to others, and in that he put it rightly. If others are in control the leaders of the church are at fault. They have shown their power in State and city. They can take control when they will, and if drunkenness and gambling and vice are rampant their is the blame—if it can be stopped at all.

Nor is this the only aspect of the affair. The recent course of Apostle John Henry Smith in betraying the people for a personal advantage is but a typical case. I do not propose to insult the intelligence of anyone by treating seriously the suggestion that Smith and Wells are in this telephone graft for the public good any more than the intimation that they go into any other graft for the public welfare. I have no care for the Bell Telephone company. It is in war itself and for itself; but as a citizen I cannot express my contempt for an apostle of the church or for the Governor of the State when they will degrade themselves and become stool pigeons for and grafters with others to take from the people of the city a franchise of undoubted value, giving in return nothing, and then striving to hide their infamy behind the rotten proclamation that they are seeking the public good. And to this end Apostle Smith has become the associate of those whom Elder Paul describes as having brought Salt Lake City—the "City of the Saints"—to a condition where, as a leading

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educator, he is constrained to call her the "modern Sodom."

So with the electric light monopoly. The church leaders, with their spiritual command over members of the Council, permit the citizens of Salt Lake, including their own brethren and tithe-payers, to be robbed and annoyed and wronged so that they may share (with those same outside influences which have made of the City of the Saints the "modern Sodom") the profits of a monopoly endorsed and supported by religious leaders.

So with the sugar industry of Utah—its stock watered and still watered and yet rising in value even as the price of sugar is raised to the consumer. All by the "annointed of the Lord," who divide the usurious and infamous profits with outsiders whose political control has made the City of the Saints the "modern Sodom"—if Elder Paul is to be accepted as an inspired speaker in the Tabernacle. So with the salt trust—so with—but why go on?

"Whom the gods would destroy they first make

mad," and these leaders of the blind Mormons must surely be as mad as their followers are blind. Swift flies time to the individual, but she droops with leaden wings to a race; and if the cause these self-respecting leaders seem to represent is not ground to dust by the unscrupulous grede of those in whom a good and honest people blindly trust, then the teachings of history are vain. Gods, what an awakening there will be!

DENNIS B.

If You Know Anything

A smoker would rather have for Christmas than some good cigars, we're not in on the secret. A man doesn't want much that you can buy him for a Christmas gift, and a box of imported cigars looks beautiful to him. The Stickney Cigar company has the largest stock this season ever brought to the city and they were bought on account of the tobacco, too, not on account of Christmas.

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